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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Napolitano, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/696,421

Filing Date: 10/28/2003

Title: DIAGNOSTIC ULTRASOUND  
IMAGING METHOD AND SYSTEM  
WITH IMPROVED FRAME RATE

Examiner: H.C. Bor

Art Unit: 3768

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

under 37 CFR 1.97 (b),  
(Within three months of either  the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d) or  the date of national stage entry of international application; or  before mailing date of first office action on the merits; or  before mailing date of a first office action after filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114).

under 37 CFR 1.97 (c) together with either a:  
 Certification under 37 CFR 1.97 (e), OR  
 the \$ 180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17 (p) authorized to be charged to Deposit Account 19-2179. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 19-2179 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25.  
(After the 37 CFR 1.97 (b) time period, but before mailing date of any of  a final action under 37 CFR 1.113, or  a notice of allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or  an action that otherwise closes prosecution).

under 37 CFR 1.97 (d) together with a:  
 Certification under 37 CFR 1.97 (e), AND  
 the \$ 180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) authorized to be charged to Deposit Account 19-2179.  
At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 19-2179 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25.  
(After the 37 CFR 1.97 (c) time period, but  on or  before payment of the issue fee).

under 37 CFR 1.97 (i)  
(Filed after time period of 37 CFR 1.97 (d) or not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97 or 1.98 - No fee or certification required; references to be placed in file but not considered).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449 - Information Disclosure Citation which applicant(s) believe(s) may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56:

with hard copies, if any, of only non-U.S. patents or non-U.S. published patent applications or U.S. pending unpublished patent applications (or portion thereof) or publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware and which should be made of record in the above-identified application; or

without hard copies of publications or other information which have been submitted previously in the parent application (application no. \_\_\_\_\_) to which the above-identified application claims priority under 35 USC 120 and which should be made of record in the above-identified application.

**37 CFR 1.97(e) Certifications:**

The undersigned hereby certifies under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement. OR

The undersigned certifies under 37 CFR 1.97(e)(2) that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.

A concise explanation of the relevance of foreign language patents, foreign language publications and other foreign language information listed on PTO Form 1449, as presently understood by the individual(s) designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c) most knowledgeable about the content that is given on  the attached separate sheet or  incorporated in the applicant's specification or  by the enclosed English-language translation or portion thereof within the possession, custody, or control of, or is readily available to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56 (c).

Applicant does not believe any fee is due. However, at any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 19-2179 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information exists. Further, the filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner or as an admission that the information cited is or is considered to be material to patentability.

PLEASE MAIL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Respectfully submitted,

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